

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 05468 212255Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 MCT-01 HA-05 CU-04 /076 W  
-----076527 220234Z /63

R 212032Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8559  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 5468

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, HO, NU

SUBJECT: LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION DEFENDS ACCUSED PLOTTERS AND PLANS COM

-

MISSION TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 5292 (DTG 111709Z NOV 77)

1. THE HONDURAN LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION HAS NAMED ONE LAWYER, SIMON MOLINA RAMOS, TO DEFEND THE CIVILIANS PRESENTLY BEING HELD ACCUSED OF "FRUSTRATED REBELLION." NOT ALL 15 CIVILIANS HAVE ACCEPTED MOLINA, SOME APPARENTLY PREFERRING TO RETAIN THEIR OWN COUNSEL. DECISION TO NAME ONE LAWYER TAKEN BY THE ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE LEGAL PROCESS, WHICH IS NOW BEFORE THE APPEALS COURT. BOTH THE LIBERAL AND NATIONAL PARTIES HAVE ALSO NAMED COMMITTEES TO ASSIST THEIR MEMBERS BUT ARE DEFERRING TO LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ACTION. THE DEFENSE CLAIMS IT IS CONFIDENT THAT ORIGINAL INDICTMENT WILL BE MODIFIED TO PERMIT BAIL, IF IT IS NOT REVERSED ENTIRELY.

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2. IN YET ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF THE ALLEGED COUP PLOT, MOLINA SUGGESTED CONSPIRACY WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPTED FRAUD ON THE PART OF TWO OF THE ACCUSED, WHO HE CLAIMED COLLECTED FUNDS FOR A MOVEMENT THAT DID NOT EXIST. MOLINA PRESENTED NO PROOF OF HIS THEORY BUT AMONG THOSE CIVILIANS WHO ELECTED TO HAVE THEIR OWN LAWYERS IS LUIS ALBERTO PADILLA, WHOM MOLINA ACCUSED OF HAVING

A CRIMINAL PAST. PADILLA'S HOME IS ALSO WHERE MEETINGS  
ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE WITH NICARAGUAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS  
(REFTEL).

3. THE LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION ALSO APPROVED A MOTION TO NAME  
A COMMISSION THAT WILL INVESTIGATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION  
OF THE ACCUSED. ONE LAWYER WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING  
DESCRIBED IT TO EMBOFF AS VERY EMOTIONAL, WITH SOME OF  
THOSE PRESENT PRESSING FOR APPROVAL OF A MOTION  
CONDEMNING GOH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CITING JAIL  
CONDITIONS AND INADEQUATE FOOD AS WELL AS THE DELAY IN  
ADVISING ATTORNEYS OF THE ARRESTS. OTHERS MAINTAINED THAT  
IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS NATURE OF POSSIBLE CHARGES, THE  
ASSOCIATION SHOULD INVESTIGATE FURTHER FIRST. THE  
ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS GIVEN THE TASK OF  
NOMINATING AN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION, WHICH IT IS NOW  
CONSIDERING.

4. COMMENT: PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ALLEGED COUP COUP APPEARS  
TO HAVE SUBSIDED AS THE PRESS FOCUSES ATTENTION ON OTHER  
ISSUES. HOWEVER, SKEPTICISM AND DISBELIEF OF THE  
GOVERNMENT'S SO-FAR PUBLISHED EXPLANATIONS REMAIN HIGH,  
AND THE PRESENT SITUATION MAY ONLY LAST WHILE THE CASE IS  
BEING APPEALED, FOLLOWED BY RENEWED DEMANDS FOR MORE  
COMPLETE INFORMATION.

JARAMILLO  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION DEFENDS ACCUSED PLOTTERS AND PLANS COM - MISSION TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SHUM, HO, NU, (MOLINA RAMOS, SIMON)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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